



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary February 22, 2010

Approval of October 19th and November 16th Meeting Summaries

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Thompson. The January 4th meeting summary was approved.

Introductions

Introductions of members and guests were made around the room.

Update from Upcounty Regional Services Center Staff

The report would be postponed due to the scope of the evening's agenda.

Update from the County Council

No report.

Presentation by the 5th District Police: Safe Biking in the Agricultural Reserve and a new elementary/middle school program

Fifth District Commander Tom Didone introduced his advisory committee, Lt. Ron Hardy, Officer Marcus Dixon, and Officer Kent Smith. He reviewed proposals from his advisory committee: a) a safer biking program in the Agricultural Reserve; and b) a new elementary/middle school program promoting safety. The biking safety program would focus on community awareness and adding bike lanes to specific roads in the Upcounty. Key to the success of these programs is: a) coordination with the county's Dept. of Transportation and the State Highway Administration ; b) a comprehensive marketing campaign; and c) the cooperation of school principals.

Discussion: Board's Position on Gaithersburg West Master Plan

Diane Jones, Assistant CAO, Office of the County Executive, gave a brief presentation on the Gaithersburg West Master Plan. Following Ms. Jones' presentation, the Board discussed their position on the Gaithersburg West Master Plan and a proposal from the Land Use & Preservation Committee to consider redistributing the Plan's proposed density along the Corridor Cities Transitway alignment rather than clustering it all in the Life Sciences Center area. A discussion ensued among the Board members after which various community members voiced their opinion concerning the Plan. The discussion ended with UCAB members voting to send the proposal to County Council as additional comments to their previous letter of support (9 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions).

Report from the Chairperson

Chair Bob Thompson distributed draft comments regarding the FY2011 operating budget that he will share with Mr. Leggett on February 25 at the Board's annual meeting with the Executive. After some discussion, Mr. Thompson announced that he would send another draft around for consensus.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Land Use and Preservation Committee – No report.

Quality of Life Committee – No report.

Airpark Liaison Committee – No report

Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison - No report

Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG) – No report.

Speed Cameras Advisory Committee– Mr. Alexander was asked to convey a concern to that committee about the placement of speed cameras in respect to signage announcing the cameras. It was suggested that more distance is needed between the sign and the camera.

Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee – No report.

Permitting Services Advisory Committee – No report.

Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Group – No report.

Community Comments

None. (Residents in attendance were invited to make comments earlier in the meeting.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Members present: Nick Alexander, Andres Aviles, Joanne Atay, Terramika Bellamy, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Bradley Davis, George Donovan, Andrew Einsmann, James King, Matthew Leakan, Doug Noble, Robert Owolabi, Christopher Snead, and Bob Thompson

Staff present: Catherine Matthews and Andrea Bush

Guests: Ron Hardy (5th District Police), Naomi Bloch (Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg's office), Tom Osborne (Patton Harris Rust Association), Lezlie Crosswhite (Scale It Back), Donna Baron (Scale It Back), Bragi Valgeirsson, Joan Postow (Community member), Sophia Schmidt (Community member), Art Schlesinger (Darnestown Civic Association), Gary & Sue Apple (Community members), Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Marc Elrich's office), Sharon Dooley (Community member), Pam Saul (Senator Rona Kramer's office)